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with comparative brevity, are to be found the slight justification for a title suggesting a treatise on economic theory. The author then goes on to show that there are so many ways in which Old England has failed to keep up with some of the other progressive nations of the world and to improve her real opportunities, that it is not necessary to turn to the fallacious explanation of the English tariff reformers and to the desperate remedy of a protective tariff. The fundamental defects both at home and in the colonies are found in bad and insufficient education, in backward sanitation, in cumbersome land laws, in antiquated agricultural methods, in inadequate banking facilities, in undeveloped transportation and in various other things.

The four main divisions of the book are determined by mingled geographical and political considerations: (1) the United Kingdom; (2) India; (3) the Crown colonies and protectorates; (4) the self-governing dominions, commonwealths and unions. Passing in review a variety of topics on which no one man could be an authority, the author shows a remarkable range of information, of interests and of remedies. If the consuming power of the vast populations of the British empire can be enhanced and these markets kept open by free trade, a scientifically sound and practicable method of curing Albion's ills will be applied, instead of the mistaken one urged by British tariff reformers—so runs the argument of the book.

FRANK A. FETTER.

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The History of the British Post Office. By J. C. HEMMEON. Cambridge, Harvard University, 1912.—xii, 261 pp.

This is a careful and painstaking study of the origin, early history and later developments of the British post office. Most care has been bestowed on the earlier history, especially in the period between the opening of the eighteenth century and the establishment of the modern system in 1840. The connection between the post office and the revenue is carefully traced; and the author shows clearly, though without emphasizing the fact, that it was the middle class, enfranchised by the Reform Act of 1832, that was chiefly benefited by the establishment of the penny post in 1840. The chapter on sailing packets and foreign mails is of peculiar interest; but here again it is the earlier period to which most attention has been paid, and the author's account of the present arrangements with the steamship companies for the carriage of the mails is totally inadequate. Only two pages are devoted to ocean mails during the whole period from 1870 to 1912. Similarly

inadequate is the treatment of the parcels post ; and the few paragraphs on money orders, postal notes and post-office savings banks are of less value than the statistics of these subjects in any reliable almanac. Ten pages are devoted to a statement of the position and grievances of the employees of the post office. The appointment and the findings of various committees are duly recorded, but the author gives no indication of any knowledge of this large human subject beyond what he has gathered from strictly official sources. There is a similar scantiness about the chapters on the telegraph and telephone systems. The author records the terms of the bargain by which the telegraphs were acquired by the government at enormously enhanced values. He discusses revenue and expenses, and gives the figures showing the losses of the post-office department in this branch of the service. He also shows that the losses do not result from the popular side of the telegraph service, which gives the people the benefit of cheap telegrams, but rather from bad bargains with railroad and newspaper companies. The short chapter on the telephones was evidently written before 1911. It makes no attempt to describe or criticize the working of the national telephone system which came into being at the beginning of the year 1912.

It would have been better had the author limited his work to the period before 1840, of which he could then have given a really adequate history. The attempt to bring his narrative down to modern times and to keep it within moderate limits results merely in creating an impression of scanty and unsatisfactory treatment.

A. G. PORRITT.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

English Apprenticeship and Child Labor: A History. By O. JOCELYN DUNLOP. With a Supplementary Section on the Modern Problem of Juvenile Labor. By O. JOCELYN DUNLOP and RICHARD D. DENMAN. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1912.—390 pp.

A timely and useful piece of work has been done by Miss Dunlop in her history of English apprenticeship and child labor. This history covers the industrial occupation of children from the earliest time of which there are any records down to the end of the nineteenth century. The modern period has been the subject of much writing, of enquiries by royal commissions and of many parliamentary speeches ; and for this period Miss Dunlop has not anything of consequence to add to what was already known. The value of her book lies in the earlier history, and especially in the contrast she has drawn between the idea and